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and notes, of one of the most noteworthy early publications on birds, and has thus not only a peculiar interest, but is full of suggestive and interesting information, bearing especially upon the origin and early use of many of the present technical names of birds. Of this work, the translator tells us: "Turner's object in writing the present treatise is fully set forth in his 'Epistola Nuncupatoria' prefixed to it. While attempting to determine the principal kinds of birds named by Aristotle and Pliny, he has added notes from his own experience on some species which had come under his own observation, and in so doing he has produced the first book on Birds which treats them in anything like a modern scientific spirit and not from the medical point of view adopted by nearly all his predecessors; nor is it too much to say that almost every page bears witness to a personal knowledge of the subject, which would be distinctly creditable even to a modern ornithologist."

Turner was one of the most learned men of his time. The date of his birth is not given; he graduated a B. A. from the University of Cambridge, of which he was elected a fellow in 1530. He was a zealous student of botany, and in 1538 published a work on plants, and later others on the same subject. He traveled extensively on the continent, where he met and became a personal friend of Gesner, to whose 'Historia Animalium' he made contributions. He was, first of all, a religious reformer, and, "his scientific work apart, nearly the whole of Turner's life was spent in religious controversy." In the dedication of his book on 'The History of Birds' (mentioned above) to the then Prince of Wales, he says, in it "I have placed for your pleasure the Greek, German, and British names side by side with the Latin"; and he proposed, under certain conditions, to "bring to the light of day a further edition of this little book with figures of the birds, their habits, and curative properties, as well as another book on plants."

It is hard to characterize the peculiar interest this "little book" has for the present day bird student; but not least of course is the antiquarian, from its curious revelations of the beginnings of modern knowledge of birds, the conjectures that prevailed in place of positive information, and the early application of many names now so differently employed in technical nomenclature. The editor and translator, seconded by the Syndics of the University Press, has opened to the general reader a previously inaccessible and practically sealed book of unusual interest, for which service we owe a debt of gratitude.—J. A. A.

**Recent Papers on Economic Ornithology.**—In 'Birds of a Maryland farm'<sup>1</sup> Dr. Judd has presented us with a study of local conditions as pre-

<sup>1</sup> Birds of a Maryland Farm, A Local Study of Economic Ornithology. By Sylvester D. Judd, Ph. D., Assistant, Biological Survey. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Division of Biological Survey—Bulletin No. 17, Washington, 1902. 8vo, pp. 116, with 17 half-tone plates and 41 text figures.

sented at the Bryan farm, at Marshall, Md., situated about fifteen miles south of Washington. The farm contains about 230 acres, of which 150 are cultivated and 80 are in woodland. A study of the food habits of the birds was continued at frequent intervals from July 30, 1895, to July 24, 1902, including every month of the year except January. The method of investigating the food of birds by examination of the contents of stomachs, says Dr. Judd, in which the material has been collected from all parts of the United States, may give misleading results; "the relation of birds to a certain locality or particular farm cannot always be exactly tested by conclusions drawn from a large range of territory. The exact damage to crops is not revealed by stomach examination. A bird may have punctured several grapes in each of a hundred clusters and yet betray to the microscope no sign of its vicious habits," etc. In the present paper Dr. Judd gives us in detail the methods and results of his work on a Maryland farm, and here attempts "to determine whether a given species is, on the whole, helpful or harmful to the farm in question." The principal species are reported upon in detail, with finally a general statement of his conclusions as to what birds are really injurious, what beneficial or neutral, and the manner in which their food habits affect the question of their utility.

'Two Years with the Birds on a Farm,' by Mr. Edward H. Forbush,<sup>1</sup> recounts observations made by him on a farm in Wareham, Mass., and is a valuable contribution to the subject of economic ornithology. The ways in which certain birds are useful to the farmer are stated with convincing detail, and the reprehensible traits of some others are not concealed, especially the nest-robbing proclivities of crows, jays, and crow blackbirds. While the crows and jays are useful as insect destroyers, they are held to be "very largely responsible for the decrease of the smaller birds."

'Boll Weevils and Birds' is an address delivered by Prof. H. P. Attwater<sup>2</sup> at the Texas Cotton Growers' Association Convention held at Dallas, Texas, Nov. 6, 1903. It is an earnest appeal for the legal protection of birds in Texas for the aid they render in checking the increase of noxious insects, including the cotton boll weevil. The address is published and given free distribution by the Passenger Department of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

<sup>1</sup> Two Years with the Birds on a Farm. Lecture by Edward Howe Forbush, Ornithologist, Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, delivered at the public winter meeting of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture at North Adams, Dec. 2, 1902. Reprinted from Fiftieth Ann. Rep. Mass. State Board of Agriculture. 8vo, pp. 53, with 8 half-tone plates, and 6 text figures.

<sup>2</sup> Boll Weevils and Birds. Address by Prof. H. P. Attwater, Industrial Agent Southern Pacific, at the Second Annual Convention of the Texas Cotton Growers' Association, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 6, 1903. 8vo. pp. 11.